

6. (Amended) The isolated polynucleotide molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that contains motifs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 spaced apart from N-terminus to C-terminus in a configuration M1-{25-26}-M2-{15}-M3-{11}-M4-{34-36}-M5[.],

wherein M1 is "motif 1," a sequence of amino acids as shown in amino acids 118 to 120 of SEQ ID NO:2,

M2 is "motif 2," a sequence of amino acids as shown in amino acids 146 to 148 of SEQ ID NO:2,

M3 is "motif 3," a sequence of amino acids as shown in amino acids 164 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:2,

M4 is "motif 4," a sequence of amino acids as shown in amino acids 178 to 180 of SEQ ID NO:2, and

M5 is "motif 5," a sequence of amino acids as shown in amino acids 215 to 217 of SEQ ID NO:2, and

{#} denotes the number of amino acids between the motifs.

In claim 7, line 4 before "polypeptide", please delete "z219a" therefrom.

10. (Amended) A DNA construct encoding a fusion protein, the DNA construct comprising:

a first DNA segment encoding a polypeptide [that is at least 90% identical to] comprising a sequence of amino acid residues 1 (Met) through 25 (Gly) of SEQ ID NO:2; and

a second DNA segment encoding an additional polypeptide,

wherein the first and second DNA segments are connected in-frame; and encode the fusion protein.

Please add the following claims:

--22. An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcription promoter;
a DNA segment encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 23 (Phe), to amino acid number 223 (Phe); and
a transcription terminator;
wherein the promoter is operably linked to the DNA segment, and the DNA segment is operably linked to the transcription terminator.

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23. An expression vector according to claim 22, further comprising a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment.

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24. A cultured cell into which has been introduced an expression vector according to claim 22, wherein the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment.

25. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising:
culturing a cell according to claim 24; and
isolating the polypeptide produced by the cell.--

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REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-10 and 15 are pending in the instant application, with claims 1, 2, 7, and 10 being in independent form. Claims 11-14 and 16-21 have been withdrawn from consideration. The amendments to claim 4 were made to simplify the issues, and to provide an independent claim of intermediate scope. The Amendments to claims 5, 6, 7 and 10 were made to address the Examiner's formal issues under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 22-25 were added to provide claims of varying scope to encompass preferred embodiments of the invention. Claim 15 was canceled, and re-written as claim 25 to simplify the issues and to